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report by a committee composed of MM. Jordan, Lippmann, Emile Picard, d'Arsonval, Haller, A. Lacroix, Tisserand and Le Chatelier on this question. It is pointed out that all the great industrial nations possess national laboratories of scientific research, systematically directed towards the study of technical problems. The National Physical Laboratory in England, the Bureau of Standards and the Carnegie Institution in the United States, the Physikalische Reichsanstalt and the institutes founded by the Wilhelm Gesellschaft in Germany are given as examples. France has no corresponding institution, and after a full discussion of the questions of control, staff, and work to be done, the following resolution was unanimously carried:

The Academy of Sciences, convinced of the necessity of organizing in France, in a systematic manner, certain scientific researches, expresses its wish that a National Physical Laboratory should be started, for the prosecution of scientific researches useful to the progress of industry. As in other countries, this laboratory would be placed under the control and direction of the Academy of Sciences.

On November 27 this question was further considered by the academy, and it was suggested that the general direction of the laboratory should be entrusted to a council, one half of the members to be nominated by the academy, one quarter representatives of the state departments, and the remaining quarter delegated by the principal industrial interests. Certain existing state laboratories might be affiliated to the national laboratory. A considerable grant for establishment and maintenance will be necessary.

#### DEDICATION OF THE NEW YORK STATE MUSEUM

ALTHOUGH the New York State Museum at Albany has been open to the public for some months past, it seemed wise to the regents of the university to bring the public into closer touch with the new museum by formal dedicatory exercises. These took place in the chancellors' hall of the education building at Albany on the afternoon and evening of Friday, December 29. The afternoon exercises consisted of a series of addresses from eminent

speakers, each representing a special phase of community interest in the museum. The Honorable Charles B. Alexander, chairman of the regents committee of the State Museum, presided, and the speakers were President John H. Finley on behalf of the university and the educational system of the state; Senator Henry M. Sage on behalf of the state government; Doctor Francis Lynde Stetson on behalf of the people; the Honorable Charles D. Walcott, speaking as a representative of science in its broadest sense, and Director John M. Clarke on behalf of the museum.

In the evening the principal address was by Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, who spoke under the title "Productive Scientific Scholarship," and gave an interesting speech to a large audience. Colonel Roosevelt was introduced by Governor Charles S. Whitman, who very happily set forth the value of the research work of the scientific corps attached to the museum. The evening exercises were felicitous and successful throughout, and were followed by a reception in the halls of the museum. Colonel Roosevelt's address on this occasion, or the part of it that related especially to his scientific theme, has been already printed in *SCIENCE*, and all the addresses of the occasion will be published as a bulletin of the university.

#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS

PROFESSOR FRANK D. ADAMS, of McGill University, has been elected president of the Geological Society of America. Dr. Charles P. Berkey, of Columbia University, continues as acting secretary, in the absence in the Arctic regions of Dr. E. O. Hovey.

OFFICERS of the Mathematical Association of America elected at the New York meeting, on December 29, are: *President*, Florian Cajori, Colorado College; *Vice-presidents*, Oswald Veblen, Princeton University, and D. N. Lehmer, University of California; *Secretary-treasurer*, W. D. Cairns, Oberlin College; *Members of the Council* to serve until January, 1920: E. R. Hedrick, University of Missouri; Helen A. Merrill, Wellesley College; R. E. Moritz, University of Washington; D. E.